



**PROPRIETARY MATERIAL NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC.
TO BE OPENED ONLY BY EXAMINER OR OTHER AUTHORIZED
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EMPLOYEE**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shojiro MIYAKE et al.
Title: SLIDABLY MOVABLE MEMBER AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING SAME
Appl. No.: 09/545,181
Filing Date: 04/07/2000
Examiner: A. Turner
Art Unit: 1775

RECEIVED
SEP 15 2003
TC 1700

23/110
9/24/03

**PROPRIETARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.56 AND MPEP §§ 724**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following is a listing of copending U.S. patent applications which relate to the above-identified application.

Serial No. 09/657,361 filed September 7, 2000

Applicant considers the aforementioned document and the disclosure of their existence as pending application to constitute proprietary information. Accompanying this Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement is a transmittal letter indicating that the materials contained herein are proprietary, as required by MPEP § 724.02.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the foregoing information and provide in the next official communication the information set forth in MPEP § 724.04(a), particularly the information under item (D), so that the applicant can, if appropriate, subsequently file a petition to expunge those materials, as provided according to MPEP § 724.05.

Respectfully submitted,

Date SEP 12 2003

By  34321

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Attorney for Applicant
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Atty. Dkt. No. 040679-1047

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the first office action on the merits after an RCE.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document B13 discloses a sliding bearing element with lubricating oil pockets. Documents B5 and B13 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document B15 discloses a fired ceramic article with a structured surface and a method of making the same.

Document B20 discusses friction coefficients in a sliding mechanism in the presence of a lubricant for DLC materials.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided for documents B13 and B15.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date SEP 12 2003

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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR
PROPRIETARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56 AND MPEP § 724**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

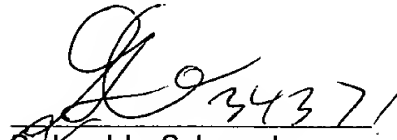
Sir:

Attached hereto is a Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement submitting proprietary information to the Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and MPEP § 724. Applicant respectfully requests that the information be considered only by the Examiner in charge of the above-caption application, or other authorized Patent and Trademark Office employee.

Respectfully submitted,

Date **SEP 12 2003**

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